

# **BIPSOC RULES & STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Meeting of April 12, 2005**

## **MINUTES**

**Present: (6) Shelley Cortese, Probation + Parole; Kathy Carty, Vantage Point; Laura Jaworski, BIPSOC; Sisan Smallman, Probation + Parole; Adrienne McGowan, Probation + Parole; Kevin Murphy, Tri-Hab.**

### **Materials Distributed:**

- Minutes from February 8, 2005 meeting**
- Agenda for April 12, 2005**
- Draft revisions: “Changes in Business Operations”; Provisional/Comprehensive Certification**

**Sisan called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. No changes to minutes from the February meeting.**

**Sisan asked members for feedback from the last Oversight Committee meeting. Kevin Murphy proposed the possibility of standardizing all program sessions to one and a half (1 ½) hours/26 weeks; this would require offenders to be enrolled in programs for a longer period of time which is statistically in-line with research regarding the decreased likelihood for re-offense. Sisan reported that state statute mandates programs to offer batterers intervention for a**

minimum of forty (40) hours/twenty (20) weeks. Given the statutory language, we would be hard-pressed to identify a twenty (20) week program as non-compliant. Kevin suggested changing the statute; Adrienne McGowan reported that if individuals were to focus on systems change, she would rather see those efforts aimed at relapse prevention after completion of the mandated batterers intervention program. Sisan reported that the process to initiate these types of change would require drafting alternative legislation, obtaining sponsorship at the legislative level, meeting with the RICADV, lobbying, etc. Kathy Carty suggested that it would be beneficial to analyze programs/processes currently in effect in other states for applicability in Rhode Island.

Sisan asked members to review the draft handout of the “Changes in Business Operations” section. This section outlines the requests to programs regarding any changes they may experience in the operation of business. Some members expressed a concern regarding accessibility to client records if an agency should close. Members requested clarification on the meaning of “provide alternative services”.

Sisan directed members to review the draft handout of Provisional and Comprehensive Certification for the Rules of Practice and Procedure. Sisan reminded members certification has evolved since the original standards were adopted in 1998. Comprehensive certification was awarded to programs that existed previous to 1998,

with provisional certification created for any new programs seeking to provide batterers intervention to court-mandated offenders. Currently, comprehensive certification has been interpreted differently due to varying needs of programs. The concern was raised about renewing comprehensive certification if a program might “fail” this process. The Review Subcommittee can suggest to the Oversight Committee two (2) options in this situation: award certification contingent upon the program completing the outlined requirements by the Review Subcommittee, or extend the existing certification until the next Oversight Committee meeting (but do not renew certification until that time). The question remains on how to address this issue within the revision through uniform rules/deadlines and/or a written plan of action. After much discussion on the various possibilities, members suggested that after the approval for an extension at the Oversight Committee meeting, the written plan of action/implementation be presented at the next regularly scheduled Oversight Committee meeting. Members requested the opportunity to fully review this draft revision for discussion at the next Subcommittee meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

**UPCOMING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

**Tuesday, May 10th, 2005 @ 2:30-4pm**

**Tuesday, June 14th , 2005 @ 2:30-4pm**

**Tuesday, July 12th, 2005 @ 2:30-4pm**

**Sisan Smallman's office**

**RIDOC-Cranston**

**15 Fleming Road-Bernadette Building**

**Minutes Prepared by Laura Jaworski**